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COPY NO. 523

OCI NO. 0407/62

9 March 1962

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SUMMARY

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: JUL 2000



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE

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CONGO

Tshombé's announcement that he will leave for Leopoldville on 15 March for talks with Adoula offers a prospect for a new break in the Congo stalemate. It is not certain that Tshombé will carry through on his commitment. He remains under heavy pressure from extremists in his entourage to resist any rapprochement with Adoula. In his statement on 6 March, however, Tshombé indicated that he was satisfied with assurances for his personal safety provided by the UN.

Tshombé's announcement came at a time when friction was mounting among the Leopoldville government, the UN Command, and the Tshombé regime in the absence of discernible progress toward Katanga's reintegration with the Congo. Adoula told Ambassador Gullion in early March that he had warned the UN Command that unless the Katanga issue were "resolved" by 31 March, he would proceed to settle the matter by military means. In conversation with UN officials, Adoula has asserted that he is under heavy political pressure to bring Tshombé to heel. [REDACTED]

Adoula's threat represents in part a bargaining position. He notes, however, that Adoula is under some pressure to attempt the recapture of Kongolo.

In a move to strengthen the central government's presence in northern Katanga, 600 poorly disciplined Congolese troops were airlifted from Luluabourg to Albertville in late February and early March. Other Congolese forces are being sent to Kabalo, which the central government regards as threatened by Katangan units. Adoula has sought to prevent his northern Katanga operation from being used by Katangan extremists as justification for breaking off communication with Leopoldville; on 4 March, following an inspection trip to Albertville, Adoula announced that Congolese troops had been ordered to fire only in self-defense.

There is evidence that Adoula is confronted with serious problems in maintaining his unwieldy coalition. President Kasavubu reportedly is concerned over a spate of telegrams from Orientale Province protesting Adoula's ousting of Gbenye from the Interior Ministry. The President is worried that Adoula may have overplayed his hand. Kasavubu reportedly has urged all deputies to consider carefully the effect any substantial weakening of the Adoula government would have on the stability of the state.

There are indications that leftist elements may become more aggressive in their criticism of the Adoula government. Stanleyville elements

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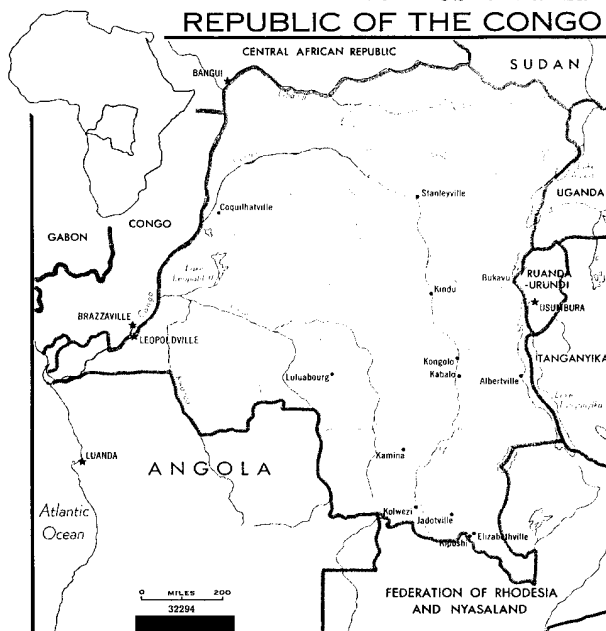
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of Gbenye's National Congo Movement (MNC) who attended the MNC conference in Leopoldville in late February reportedly favor going into formal opposition and bringing down the Adoula government. Less radical members reportedly support Gbenye in his refusal to accept a vice-premiership, but are not disposed to withdraw from the government at this time.

ing to the base. In Elisabethville, UN officers had noted an increase in tension between UN forces and the Katangans, and shots were exchanged by UN and Katangan soldiers on the outskirts of Elisabethville on the night of 6 March.

UN Under Secretary Bunche told US officials on 2 March



The uneasy truce between the UN Command and Tshombé's forces in Katanga was disrupted on 5 March, when Katangan and UN soldiers clashed near Kamina. Tshombé alleged that 1,200 UN troops had launched an "offensive" from the base; the UN countered with a statement charging that Katangan soldiers had fired on a UN patrol, which had returned fire before retreat-

that UN military commander McKeown would be instructed once again to curb provocative actions by UN officers in Katanga. Bunche observed that McKeown had earlier made a trip to Elisabethville to discourage such activity, and that the continuing problem was one more example of McKeown's ineffectiveness.

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